

Statewide Rail Capacity and System Needs Study Policy Package Development

presented to
**Washington State
Transportation Commission**

presented by
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Washington State
Transportation Commission



Agenda

- **Policy package development presentation**
- **Review of project “guiding policy statements”**
- **Case studies (handout) of policy package development**
- **Discussion of policy framework approach**

Objectives

- Organize rail “improvements” into logical “**packages**” that support supply chains and industries
 - (Improvements could involve infrastructure, operations, or regulation; and could be led by the RRs, industry, or WS)
- Align project and package **benefits**, costs, and implementation strategies so that they can be compared
- Evaluate benefits of projects and packages against Washington State’s **statewide goals and policies** for rail transportation and development

“Policies” are...

- **General policies** governing the state’s role in rail transportation such as
 - Washington State will invest in the rail sector to support economic development...
 - Washington State will maintain competition among RRs...
- **Sector policies** such as
 - Washington State will advance rail programs to maintain and enhance the competitiveness of the State’s port and trade industries...
- **Program policies** such as
 - Washington State will invest in rail programs to improve landside access to rail terminals serving ports

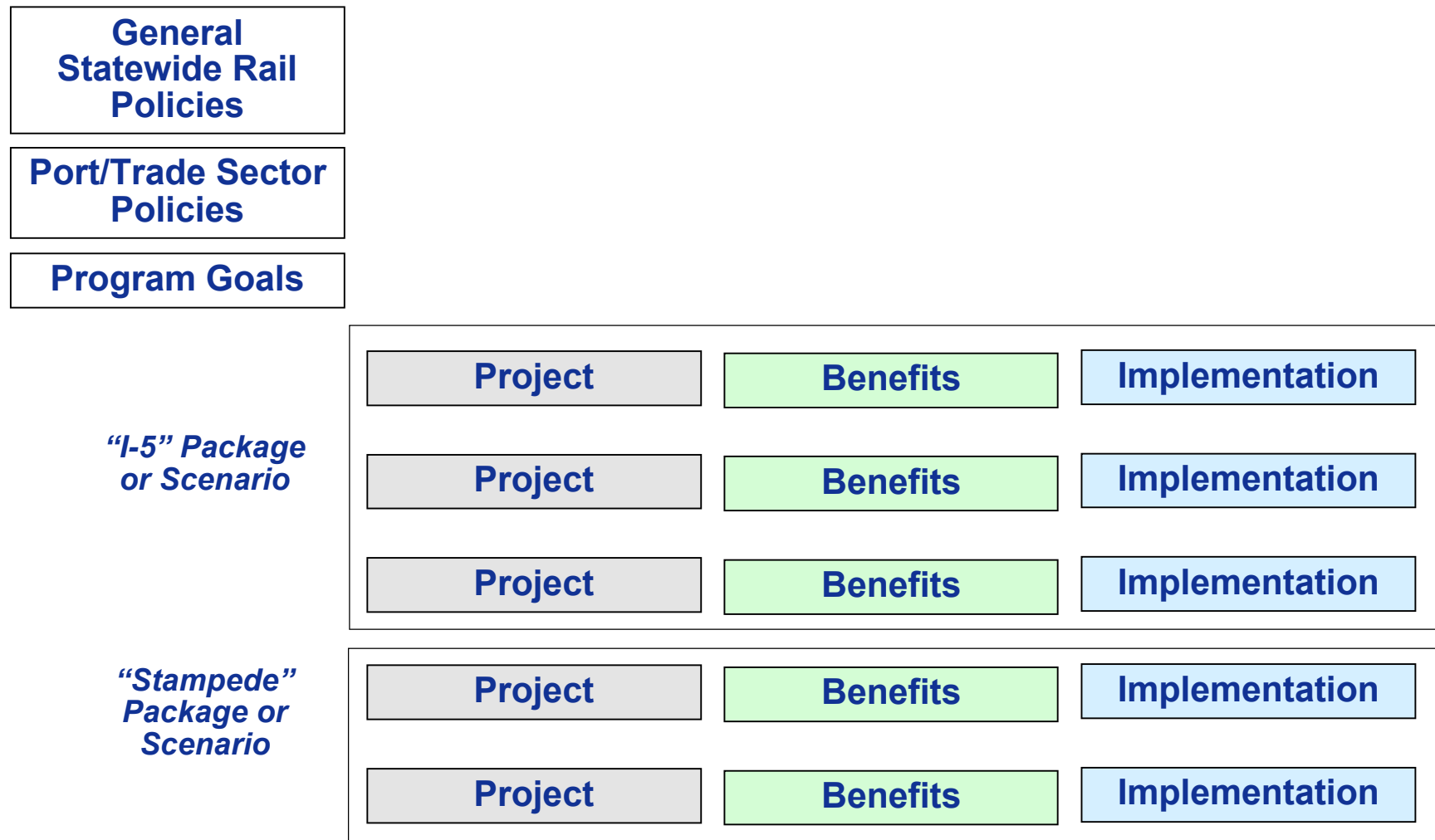
“Policy Package” is a set of ...

- **Projects/Actions**, which could be capital infrastructure improvements, operational improvements, or regulatory actions, with project objectives and costs...
- **Benefits** described in terms of jobs, ROI, reduced accidents, etc., and identified for Washington State, shippers/receivers, railroads, and communities...
- **Implementation Strategies**, outlining roles, legal authority, and responsibilities for developing, financing, and implementing the projects—which might involve the railroads, local agencies, WSDOT or others...

“Sector Policy Packages” are ...

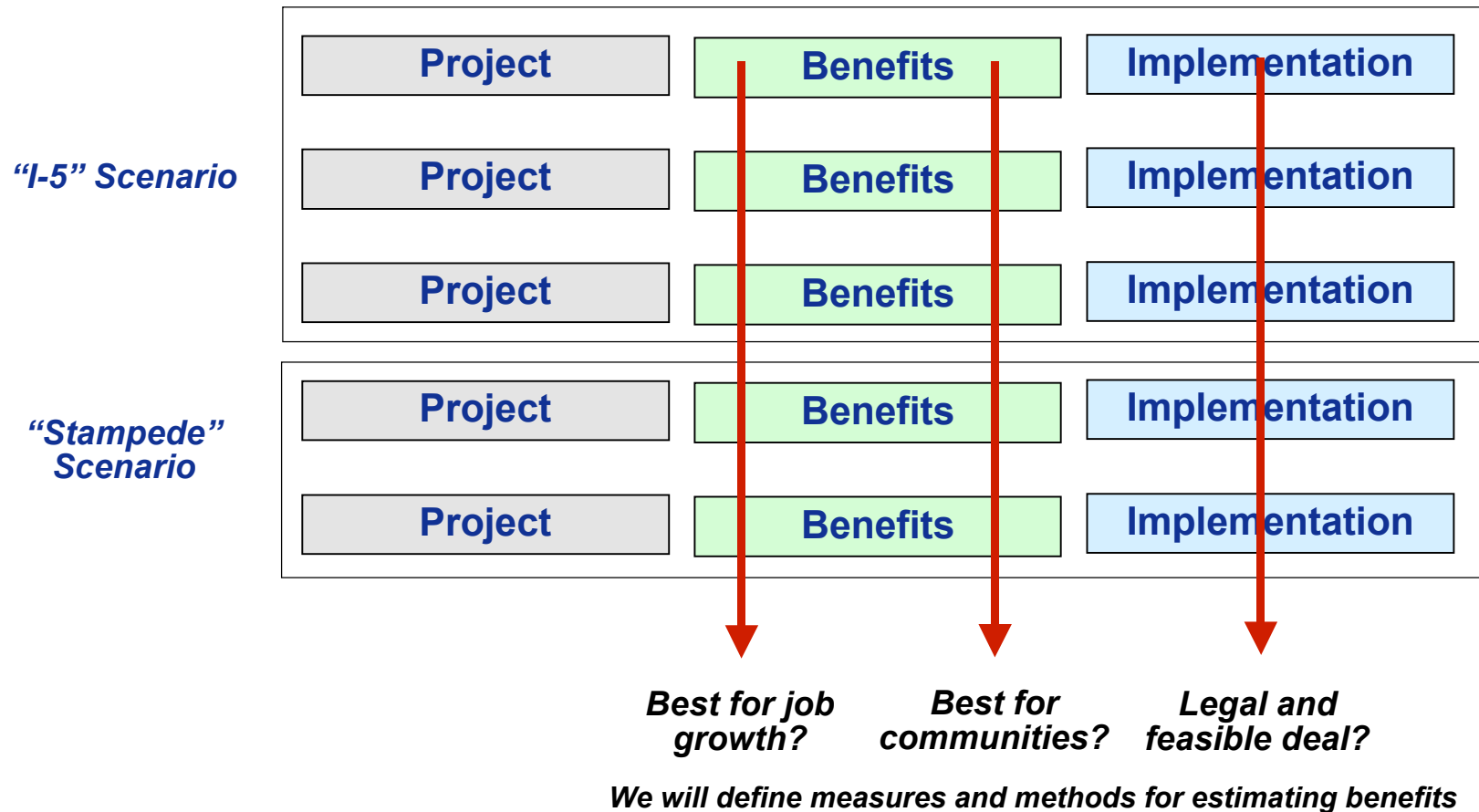
- **Alternative combinations of projects designed to advance some or all of the Washington State’s policies for each specific sector**
- **For example, for the **Ports/Trade Sector** there might be several alternative policy packages...**
 - **“**I-5 corridor policy package**” that focuses on rail projects that maximize existing capacity along the I-5 rail corridor**
 - **“**Stampede policy package**” that focuses on providing east-west throughput capacity**
 - **“**Stampede/Ellensburg/Lind policy package**” that focuses on providing east-west throughput capacity and economic development in Central Washington State by utilizing the state-owned ROW in the Ellensburg/Lind corridor..**

Elements of “Sector Policy Packages” for Port/Trade Sector



We will define illustrative projects and packages based on available information

Projects and Alternative Packages Would be Evaluated by Comparing Costs, Benefits, and Implementation Feasibility Against WS Policies and Goals



Benefits Should Focus on a “Few Good Measures” That Are Critical to WTC and the WS Legislature, Such as...

● Washington State

- Jobs created (direct/indirect)
- Contribution to Gross State Product
- Transportation system capacity/performance (congestion reduction)

● Shippers/Receivers

- Service access and quality
- Reliability
- Impact on shipping costs

● Railroads/Carriers

- ROI
- Throughput/velocity
- Competition

● Communities

- Economic development
- Access
- Safety concerns/issues
- Environmental Impacts/Mitigation req'd

“Illustrative” Policy Packages will be developed for...

General Statewide Rail Policies			
Port/Trade Sector Policies	Program/Projects	Benefits	Implementation
Ag/Food Sector Policies	Program/Projects	Benefits	Implementation
Mfg/Ind Sector Policies	Program/Projects	Benefits	Implementation
Lumber/Wood Sector Policies	Program/Projects	Benefits	Implementation
Passenger Rail Policies	Program/Projects	Benefits	Implementation

*We will define illustrative packages for the major sectors
Illustrative means flagging key projects, not all projects*

“Statewide Policy Packages” are ...

- **Alternative combinations of sector projects designed to advance some or all of the Washington State’s general and sector policies, for example ...**
 - An **“economic development policy package”** might focus on rail projects across industry sectors that maximize economic development and job growth across the state
 - An **“agricultural/food products policy package”** might focus on sustaining the agricultural/food products industry and Washington State communities dependent on this sector
 - An **“I-5 corridor rail policy package”** might focus on maximizing passenger rail and industrial carload service in the Seattle to Vancouver region

Statewide “I-5 Policy Package” Might Combine...

